# Template: Proposal for an Africa RISING R4D Scaling Partnership

## Background and Justification

*Describe the nature of the innovations to be scaled:*

* *Africa RISING in Phase I have established strong partnership at local level through establishing and running innovation platforms* ***(IPs`s)*** *to help and address the complex crop-livestock mixed farming system at three levels* 
  1. *Strategic Innovation Platforms at Woreda level*
  2. *Operational Innovation Platforms at Kebelelevele*
  3. *More than 7 Farmers Research Groups/Innovation Clusters at community level*
* *Strategic Innovation Platforms are established at woreda level comprises Research organisations (Research centres and Universities) and Local decision makers and Development Partners (NGOs, Zone and woreda agriculture office, different line ministries found at woreda level and woreda administrations)*
* *Africa RISING have been designing and implementing its R4D activities that aims to address the sustainable intensification to improve the complex farming system through these innovation platform networks*
* *The outcome of working through these strong partnership at local level helped the following:-*
  + *It engages all stakeholders during the problem identification and prioritization process – that helped the project to focus on site specific issues through demand driven approach*
  + *It created a good learning and sharing environment for all stakeholders through regular planning monitoring and evaluation meetings, big farmers field days, trainings, and exchange visits*
  + *It builds strong linkage among the key stakeholders*
  + *It re-enforced the commitment of key stakeholders (development partners) in the process of joint action for scaling up farmers preferred technologies*
  + *It built the research capacity of its stakeholders (through trainings, participation in different research activities*
  + *The capacity of the technical group members at strategic innovation platform regarding organizing and facilitating different learning and sharing events that focus on new technology promotion*
* *Therefore, Africa RISING should continue strengthen the existing partnership at local level.*
* *For the second phase Africa RISING should design strategy for linking the woreda level IPs with regional and national level key actors to influence policy and re-enforce commitment*
* *There is a strong potential for utilizing funds from AGP II (Research, best experience, and innovation components), SLM, and other government projects. Eg: Africa RISING farmers field day fund was supported by AGP and it involves Tigray Regional decision makers, seed distribution supported by AGP, AGP other Tigray regional key stakeholders identified Afruca RISING site as a best experience and visited for scaling up.*
* *Woreda can decide on the budget allocation by steering committee – and this is a good potential for Africa RISING other sites to replicate. The experience of Africa RISING joint activities with AGP can be shared at national level*
* *Africa RISING have been working for the last three/four years and farmers preferred technologies and best practices have been identified for potential scaling up. So, this second phase is the right time for Africa RISING to initiate regional and national level engagement strategy for sharing its scalable technologies and best practices.*
* *There is a need to identify the right mechanism for this engagement by looking at the existing platforms like Agricultural Development Partners Linkage Advisory Council (ADPLAC), SLM national level platform, Humidtropics R4D Platform*

## Benefits

*What benefits are anticipated from the widespread uptake of these innovations?*

* It helps Africa RISING and other similar projects to create a joint forum to inform, generate, share and ultimately use research outputs
* Coordination of joint activities that is demanded by SI approaches
* Avoid duplication of efforts among the CG center, EIAR, Regional Research Centers and other organizations working on research
* Re-enforce development partners commitment through their site specific projects (AGP, SLM, ATA etc)
* Strengthen linkages among the national actors for addressing their common complex problem around SI and jointly develop actions
* It helps for joint problem identification and prioritization
* It helps to set clear roles and responsibilities for scaling up of innovations through big projects like WB, IFAD, GIZ

## Research Questions

*Specify the research questions that will backstop the partnership. It is accepted that these might evolve over the lifespan of the partnership.*

* Is there an optimized way of linking local level best practices to national level to inform policy issues?
* What is the best institutional approach for scaling up of successful innovation that works for SI?
* What kind of multi-stakeholder processes need to put in place to inform, generate, share and ultimate use of research outputs?

## Development Partnerships

*List the partners who will be active, describe the contribution that they will make and how Africa RISING will support / backstop this with the research proposed. Also consider the comparative advantage offered by your partnerships. Make sure that you carefully consider roles and responsibilities of all partners.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Category* | *List of Development partners* | Roles |
| Development Partners | MoANR (AGP, SLM), MoLF, MoCW, MoH, EPHI, MoWE, MoE, MoEFCC, BoA of four regions, National and Regional Seed Enterprise, cooperative Agency, ATA – PSD Task Force Representative | Leading on the scaling up of innovations found under SI |
| Research Partners | EIAR, ARAI, OARI, TARI, SARI (Regional Research Institutes) and CG – centres | Technology, generation, adaptation, |
| Donors | WB, IFAD, GIZ | Financial support for scaling up and capacity building |
| Private Sectors | Seed producers, Ethiopian Millers Association (EMA), | Input and output side support for markets |

## Impact Pathway

*Ensure that the contribution to FtF goals (e.g. improved food security, better health and nutrition, inclusive agriculture sector growth) are stated*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activities | Outputs | Outcomes | Impacts |
| Packaging of Africa RISING innovations | Technologies, and best practices from all Africa RISING sites identified, packaged | Increased crop, livestock and tree mixed farming system productivity increased | Improved livelihood in Ethiopian Highlands |
| Develop strategy for linking IPs with national level platform | Africa RISING national level platform engagement strategy developed | Create good linkage, avoid duplication of efforts, set clear roles of key partners, re-enforce commitments, develop joint vision, pool resources, | It helps Africa RISING and other similar projects to create a joint forum to inform, generate, share and ultimately use research outputs for SI |
| Capacity Building | IP`s capacity in terms of (Knowledge, information, material and financial) shared | Attitudinal change  Knowledge and skill improved | Implementation capacity of stakeholders developed  Strong linkage among stakeholders established |

## Targets / Zone of Influence

*How many potential beneficiaries are out there? How many do you hope to materially impact on? Where are they?*

* The Africa RISING four regions and National level interlinked platform with other potential projects/programs.

## Arrangements Required for Monitoring and Evaluation

*How will you generate and present the evidence that your partnership has been successful?*

* *Outcome mapping / journal*
* *Most significant change stories, case studies*

## Communications and Knowledge Management / Transfer

*What arrangements will you put in place to communicate your activities and their benefits? What knowledge specific products and activities will you need to implement to support this.*

* Regular learning events that include meetings, exchange visits, farmers field days,
* Online and offline sharing of knowledge and information
* Face to face communication with key actors for influencing